

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CPR-01 SS-15 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:DHT
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WWOESSNER
L/M:TRAMSEY (INFO)
EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY

-----004845 271710Z /41

R 262304Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, EFIN, ABLD, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR DEMARCHE ON ARLINGTON TAX CASE

GDR ACTING DCM SIEMENS AND CONSULAR OFFICER SHRICKEL CALLED ON BARKLEY, EUR/CE, MAY 25 TO SEEK AGAIN DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN TAKING "APPROPRIATE STEPS" TO "SUSPEND" SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST GDR BY ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA FOR NON-PAYMENT OF BACK TAXES ON GDR'S STAFF HOUSING BUILDING IN ARLINGTON. SIEMENS REFERRED TO JANUARY AND MARCH NOTES FROM GDR EMBASSY AND TO A SIMILAR DEMARCHE MADE YESTERDAY IN BERLIN. SIEMENS WAS TOLD THAT ENTIRE QUESTION OF TAX IMMUNITIES FOR DIPLOMATIC PROPERTIES IS UNDER GENERAL REVIEW AND THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR RESOLUTION.

L HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GDR'S AMERICAN LAWYER (FAULKNER) AND WITH ARLINGTON AUTHORITIES, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT A HEARING IN ARLINGTON TODAY MAY RESULT
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PAGE 02 STATE 135441

IN A POSTPONEMENT, AT THE END OF WHICH OUR GENERAL REVIEW MAY BE COMPLETED. IN THE ABSENCE OF A POSTPONEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT REMAINS PREPARED TO TESTIFY AS NECESSARY ABOUT SOVEREIGN IMMUNITIES. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO SIEMENS, HOWEVER, THAT, UNDER OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM, STATE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT COMPEL VIRGINIA OR ARLINGTON COUNTY TO TAKE OR DESIST FROM ANY PARTICULAR ACTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition History: n/a
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